

Response to Amendment

- Amendment of claim 1 has been found fully supported by the original disclosure and entered.
- The previous 102/103 rejection of claims 1 and 4 has been overcome by amendment and argument.
- The previous 102/103 rejection of claims 2-3 has been rendered moot by cancellation.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 4 are allowable over the closest prior art: **Sashida et al. (US 6720374 B2)**.

Shashida et al. discloses a polylactic acid composition contains a compound of formula (1) of claim 1. However, Shashida et al. fails to disclose the average acylation of claimed range of 55-90%. The applicant's argument and calculation of the average acylation of the reference have successfully overcome the inherency rationale previously applied by the examiner.

Therefore, claim 1 and 4 are allowable.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and persuasive. Amended claims 1 and 4 are allowed.

Conclusion

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHANE FANG whose telephone number is (571)270-7378. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST.. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski can be reached on (571) 272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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